

mission to commit any act during a specified number of years, if a sum of money be paid and pilgrimage made to a certain shrine. And this is advertised in the newspapers, in this twentieth century.

Many who listened to such a recital wished we might send a score of missionaries to supplement the devoted and successful labors of Mr. and Mrs. Porter. The latter is soon to return, his vacation being only half elapsed, accompanying Mrs. Porter, who came home first in failing health.

Mrs. Robert Houston.

Meridian, Miss.

#### PRAYER AND MORE CANDIDATES.

If the people of God do not feel the need of laborers enough to pray for them they will certainly not receive them. The best blessings we enjoy came to us in answer to prayer. Each word of the command to pray for laborers is full of meaning. "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest." Every servant should offer this prayer. We may well fear that many professed servants of God never offer it. We are commanded to pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest. If he gives them to us, they will be the proper kind. Again, we are commanded to pray for laborers. Some ministers, by reason of their indolence, neglect the people over whom they have been placed. The church needs men who have a mind to work. This prayer should be offered in sincerity. People do not offer it then when they do not faithfully use the means that God places in their hands to the end that it may be answered. However often we may pray God to save the soul of a person, if we do not faithfully exert ourselves to lead him to the Saviour, we can not expect our prayer to be answered. If ministers do not preach to young men on the claims of the ministry, and do not personally direct their attention to the matter, they pray in vain. If the people of God do not give their means to the cause of ministerial education, to the cause of ministerial relief, and if they do not support the men who are proclaiming to them the word of life, they can not expect their prayers for more laborers to be answered. Many parents who are offering this prayer are unwilling for their sons to preach. Many who offer it are not bringing up their sons in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They do not pray in the proper spirit. They are like people who pray the Lord to restore their loved ones to health and strength, but fail to use the proper means. Their prayers for laborers will not be answered. When a preacher, after making an appeal for volunteers for the foreign field, saw his daughter coming forward to offer herself, he exclaimed, "My daughter, I did not mean you; I did not mean you." He doubtless prayed for volunteers, but his prayer was not offered in the right spirit. Parents should offer their sons to the Lord for the ministry, and they should earnestly and constantly pray Him to call them to preach the gospel. The writer has heard Christian par-

ents say that they did not wish their sons to enter the ministry. God will certainly not answer their prayer to him for more laborers. Nor will he answer such a prayer, if they fail to give their children the proper religious training. We can not expect a tree to grow in a climate to which it is not adapted. No more could we expect ministers to come from homes where family religion is neglected. Some one argued that the falling off in the number of our candidates for the ministry was due to the low spirituality of the church. But why was the spirituality of the church at such a low ebb? It was because family religion was neglected in so many homes. If Zion would put on her strength and her beautiful garments, then would the prayer for more laborers be answered.

Many of our godly young men who are offering this prayer are unwilling to enter the ministry. If God has not called them to preach they would make a great mistake if they should offer themselves as candidates for the ministry. But how do they know that God has not called them to the ministry? Young men may refuse to heed God's call to the ministry. Many have done so. The fact that preachers are so sadly needed is proof of this. Farmers do not prepare any more land than they think they can cultivate. A mill owner does not place any more machinery in his mill than he can manage. Then why should we think that God has not called men to occupy the many vacant fields in our Church? Many of our young men have refused to answer the call. They have brought guilt upon their souls. And as long as they turn a deaf ear to the call, they pray in vain for more laborers. We can not expect their prayers to be answered, if they do not use the means at hand.

A. H. Atkins.



#### TEACHING SOCIAL HABITS.

Home is the school for teaching social habits. They who do not learn in that school the art of living with others are very apt never to learn it anywhere. And it is of prime importance that this school be kept up to the highest degree of excellence. And there needs to be a wide recognition of the fact that no one does a little thing who does anything to make his home bright and good and lovely. Rather he does a noble thing, an important service. He is working upon the foundations of the world's temple of prosperity and happiness with honest work that will endure. He can do no better service than that of building a home where character is constructed of justice, honesty, purity and love. And this is a sphere of service open to everybody. For God hath set the solitary in families.—Christian Intelligence.

Soberly and with clear eyes believe in your own time and place. There is not and there never has been a better time or a better place to live in.—Phillips Brooks.

"No guise is too good for sin to appropriate."—Ram's Horn.

#### All Physicians

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